

Homework 15 – Learning Styles Inventory

The Learning Styles Inventory is a means of examining your own preferred learning style. It is based on a systems understanding of how humans learn. To prepare to examine your own preferred learning style, please first read the description of how people learn here:

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/learning-kolb.html>

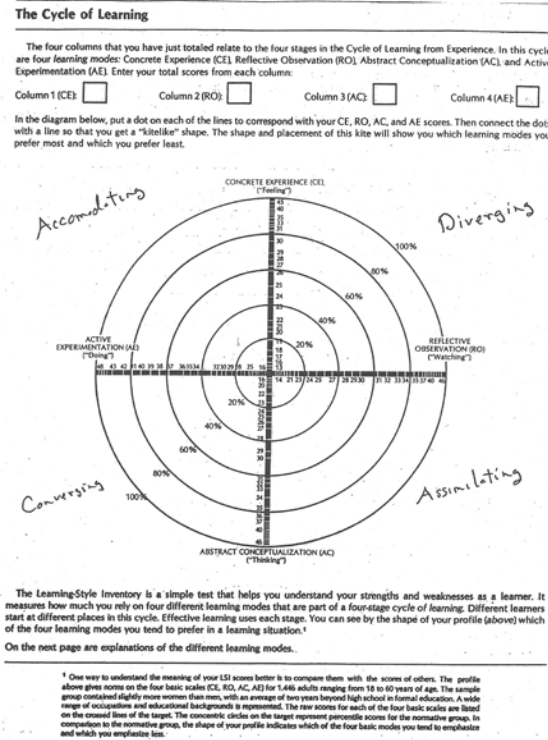
Next, take the [Learning Styles Inventory Test](#). The test sheet looks like this.

Learning Style Inventory Test Sheet				
<small>INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence (1 thru 12). Rank the endings for each sentence across according to how well you think each one fits with how you would go about learning something. Try to recall some recent situation where you had to learn something new, perhaps in a class or your job. Then, using the sentence endings provided, rank a "4" for the sentence ending that describes how you learn best, down to a "1" for the sentence ending that seems least like the way you would learn. Be sure to rank all the endings for each sentence unit with a 1, 2, 3, or 4. Then total each column.</small>				
	1	2	3	4
1. When I learn:	___ I like to deal with my feelings.	___ I like to watch and listen.	___ I like to think about ideas.	___ I like to be doing things.
2. I learn best when:	___ I trust my hunches & feelings.	___ I listen and watch carefully.	___ I rely on logical thinking.	___ I work hard to get things done.
3. When I am learning:	___ I have strong feelings & reactions.	___ I am quiet and reserved.	___ I tend to reason things out.	___ I am responsible about things.
4. I learn by:	___ feeling.	___ watching.	___ thinking.	___ doing.
5. When I learn:	___ I am open to new experiences.	___ I look at all sides of issues.	___ I like to analyze things, break them down into parts.	___ I like to try things out.
6. When I am learning:	___ I am an intuitive person.	___ I am an observing person.	___ I am a logical person.	___ I am an active person.
7. I learn best from:	___ personal relationships.	___ observation.	___ rational theories.	___ a chance to try out and practice.
8. When I learn:	___ I feel personally involved in things.	___ I take my time before acting.	___ I like ideas and theories.	___ I like to see results from my work.
9. I learn best when:	___ I rely on my feelings.	___ I rely on my observations.	___ I rely on my ideas.	___ I can try things out for myself.
10. When I am learning:	___ I am an accepting person.	___ I am a reserved person.	___ I am a rational person.	___ I am a responsible person.
11. When I learn:	___ I get involved.	___ I like to observe.	___ I evaluate things.	___ I like to be active.
12. I learn best when:	___ I am receptive and open-minded.	___ I am careful.	___ I analyze ideas.	___ I am practical.
Total the scores from each column	_____	_____	_____	_____
<small>*****4 = most like you; 3 = second most like you; 2 = third most like you; 1 = least like you*****</small>				

Read the instructions carefully.

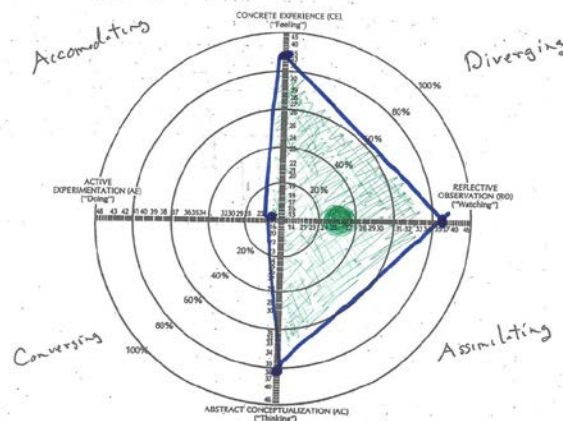
1. Rank the description in columns 1 through 4 by concluding the sentence on the left. For example.... 1. When I learn; I like to (deal with my feelings, watch and listen, think about ideas, or be doing things). Pick the one that is most like you and give it a 4. Pick the one that is least like you and give it a 1. Then place the 2 and 3 scores on the other two descriptions.
2. Do this for all of the phrases in the left hand column.
3. Add up each column and record the total where it says "Total the scores from each column" on the bottom of the test sheet.

- Then transfer the total scores from the bottom of the page to the top of the “[Cycle of Learning](#)” graphing page. For example, your score from column 1 goes in the box labeled “Column 1 (CE)” on the top of this page. Do the same for all four scores. The Cycle of Learning page looks like this.



- Once you have all four numbers (CE, RO, AC, and AE), place a dot on the graph next to the number for that preference. For example, if you had a 30 in Column 1 (CE), put a dot on the vertical bar next to the number 30 (this is the “feeling” score – or “concrete experience”). Do this for all four scores.
- Next, draw a line between each dot.

My own diagram looks like this.



As you can see from my Learning Style Inventory results, I am highly skewed toward Diverging and Assimilating. These are indeed my preferred learning styles. We all have to do all four to be effective learners, but given the choice I am more of a “learn by feeling, watching, and thinking” than a “learn by doing” sort of person.

There is no right or wrong.... and in fact, the test doesn't work for some people. But before you jump to any conclusions, please take a look at the [various descriptors for the four steps in the learning process](#). I know that my own strengths are “diverging” and “assimilating”. What about you? Did the test tell you anything about your own learning style that you recognize to be true?

SUMMARY

1. How do you think your preferred learning style effects your ability to be a good team player?
2. Do you think an effective team should have common or different learning styles to be effective?
3. Can you think of examples of times when your learning style helped your or impeded your learning?